

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated August 12, 2010, with a one month extension of time. Claims 16-23 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 16-23. Applicants cancel claims 16-23 without prejudice to filing one or more claims having similar subject matter, in other applications. Applicants add new claims 25-32. Support for the new claims may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by the new claims. Support for new claims 25, 26, 29 and 30 is found, for example, in Figs. 3 and 4, along with paragraphs [0054], [0055], [0062] and [0063] of the present application. Support for the new claims 27, 28, 31 and 32 is found, for example, in Figs. 3 and 4. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Initially, the applicants would like to thank Primary Examiner THAI TRAN for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview conducted at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 18, 2010. During the interview, the parties discussed the features contained in the newly added independent claims 25 and 29 as well as those contained in the dependent claims. As reflected on the Interview Summary form, agreement was reached that each of independent claims 25 and 29 recite features which are not disclosed by the cited references. Included next is the Substance of the Interview.

The Examiner rejects claims 16-18 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanaya et al., US Pat. No. 5,754,258 ("Hanaya") in view of Davidson, US Pat. No. 5,778,077 ("Davidson"). The Examiner also rejects claim 19 over Hanaya in view of Davidson and in further view of Official Notice. Applicants respectfully disagree; however, Applicants cancel claims 16-23 in favor of newly added claims 25-32 to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable aspects of the claims.

For example, newly added claim 25 recites at least "an output control section configured to selectively switch between the first audio signal (from a mounted recording medium) and the second audio signal (from an external audio input terminal)", "a mode setting section configured to set an operation mode to a reproduction mode for reproducing the first audio signal from the mounted recording medium or a stop mode for stopping reproduction of the first audio signal from the mounted recording medium" and "wherein when the mode setting section sets the operation mode from the reproduction

mode to the stop mode, the output control section switches the sound to be output from the speaker from a sound based on the first audio signal to a sound based on the second audio signal, and mutes the second audio signal". Applicants assert that the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or contemplate at least the aforementioned features as recited in independent claim 25, and as similarly recited in independent claim 29. Based on the foregoing, Applicants assert that claims 25 and 29 are allowable.

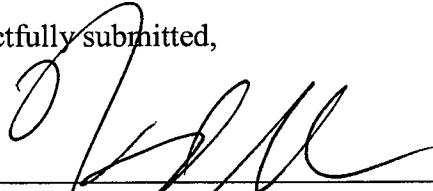
New dependent claims 26-28 and 30-32 variously depend from independent claims 25 and 29. Therefore, Applicants assert that dependent claims 26-28 and 30-32 are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claims 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully disagree; however, Applicants cancel claims 20-21 to expedite prosecution, so this rejection is now moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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